exchange earned by these multinationals since liberalisation; and

(f) what is the profit margin of these multinationals in food processing industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) and (b) Investment by foreign companies operating internationally helps in bringing additional investment in the food processing sector, bring in attendant benefits of technology and managerial expertise, helps generation of employment, helps accessing foreign market and increases export as well as brings in competition for the benefits of common man. Since liberalisation in July 1991, approval has been accorded to many foreign companies, NRIs, etc. for investment in the deep sea fishing and food processing sectors. Total foreign equity investment in these projects are over Rs. 2000 crores.

(c) No report of declining production of processed food products due to the operation of companies with foreign equity has been received in this Ministry.

(d) Most of these approvals are in various stages of implementation.

(e) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of House.

(f) Information on profit margin in respect of food processing units is not maintained.

Setting up two big Orange Processing Units

7707. DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR : Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have noted the announcement of the Government of Maharashtra for setting up two big Orange Processing Units one each in Nagpur and Amravati Districts;

(b) whether Government of Maharashtra approached the Central Government for any assistance for the setting up of these units;

(c) whether there is any scheme for assistance to such units and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether Government would give assistance to the Maharashtra Government for these two projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) to (d) No proposal seeking for setting up of orange processing units has been received from Government of Maharashtra. The Ministry of Food Processing Industries is implementing a Plan Scheme under which assistance is provided to public sector/joint sector/ cooperative sector units etc., for establishment or upgradation of fruits & vegetable processing facilities including orange processing. Such assistance upto 50% of capital cost (60% in industrially backward districts and 75% in ITDP districts, North-Eastern and Hill States) can be extended depending upon the economic viability of the project, pioneering nature of the project, technology, etc. as well as the availability of funds.

Delicencing Beer

7708. SHRI P. UPENDRA: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to delicence beer;

(b) how many applications are still pending; and

(c) by when the final decision is expected in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) 87 (Eighty seven) applications were

pending as on 1-6-1994.

(c) Action for disposing of these applications has been initiated.

Processing of Raw and Cashew Nuts

7709. SHRI V. GOPALSAWY: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of cashew nuts factories in each States, State-wise figures;

(b) how much raw cashew nuts was processed in these factories in each State during the last three years in each year;

(c) how many workers are employed presently in each State in these factories;

(d) whether it is a fact that cashew producers are not getting remunerative prices for their products if so, details thereof;

(e) what is the number of farmers co-operative societies in each State, State-wise figures;

(f) whether Central Government have taken steps to encourage farmers' co-operative societies to ensure remunerative prices for them; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) to (g) As cashew processing is being done mostly in the small scale and unorganised sector, information regarding State-wise number of units, quantum of processing, workers employed, number of cooperatives, etc. are not maintained centrally. However, as per the available information there are some 690 factories processing raw-cashew nuts in the country which are mostly located in the cashew producing States of Kerala, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Goa, Maharashtra, Orissa, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Pondicherry and Tripura. State-wise production of raw-cashew nuts during 1990-91, 1991-92 and 1992-93 are given in the statement (*See* below) in addition to processing of cashewnuts produced within the country, India also imports raw cashewnuts and process them in the factories. Import of raw cashewnuts in the years 1990-91, 1991-92 & 1992-93 were of the order of 82,639 MT, 1,06,322 MT and 1,33,293 MT respectively. Thus, the total amount of cashew processed in the country which is inclusive of processing of domestic raw cashew during the year 1990-91, 1991-92 & 1992-93 was estimated to be of the order of 3,77,299 MT, 4,11,632 MT and 4,82,683 MT respectively.

Statement

Production of Raw Cashew Nuts

(Unit: Metric Tonnes)

State	Years		
	1990-91	1991-92	1992-93
Kerala	1,42,100	1,43,200	1,51,600
Karnataka	25,770	26,750	31,260
Andhra Pradesh	37,770	40,360	44,880
Orissa	29,100	31,840	39,060
Maharashtra	29,510	31,960	25,590
Goa	14,100	14,490	33,810
Tamil Nadu	12,470	12,710	19,190
West Bengal	3,440	3,660	3,660
Pondicherry	280	290	290
Tripura	50	50	50
	2,994590	3,05,310	3,49,390

Setting up of National Marine Fisheries Development Board

7710. SHRI P. UPENDRA: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to set up National Marine Fisheries Development Board for the overall development of fisheries sector; and

(b) if so, by when the Board is likely to come into being?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING